

THE JOHN FITZGERALD KENNEDY LIBRARY

The John Fitzgerald Kennedy Library will be erected in Boston, Massachusetts, at a site along the Charles River donated by Harvard University. President Kennedy personally chose this site both because he wished the Library to be close to the scenes of his own youth and because he wanted it to be part of a living educational community. The location will not only permit a close relationship with Harvard University but will be within easy access of other colleges and universities in the Boston area.

The Library will be a memorial to President Kennedy. It will seek to express in architecture the spirit and style of the 35th President. But it will be much more than a monument; for an appropriate memorial must also express President Kennedy's vivid concern for the unfinished business of his country and the world. The Library will therefore include, in addition to an austere and beautiful memorial room, several working components: a Museum; an Archive; and an Institute. The challenge to the architect will be to combine these elements in a single harmonious design which will both contain the various functions of the Library and celebrate the memory of President Kennedy.

The Museum will display memorabilia of President Kennedy and his times -- photographs, panoramas, scientific objects, and artifacts of all sorts arranged to portray and convey the issues, the achievements and the atmosphere of the Kennedy years. The Museum will not be simply a static exhibition of items in glass cases. It will employ the modern resources of electronics and design to engage the spectator in active participation and to give the exhibits a living impact. Thus there might be a room where individuals can enter a booth, select a Kennedy speech or a significant episode of his times, and then see a film or hear a tape of the actual event. The goal of the Museum will be to make the experience of recent history as direct and intense as possible for the visitor, and especially for students and young people.

The Archive will house the personal papers of President Kennedy, his family and his associates, as well as copies of the public records necessary to an understanding of the issues and actions of his administration, and transcripts of interviews with his colleagues and contemporaries. In addition, there will be a collection of books, magazines, newspapers and printed documents bearing upon President Kennedy and his times. The Archive will hopefully become a center for the study of mid-century America, its basic problems in domestic and foreign policy, its conception of itself and of its destiny. It will contain the necessary facilities for scholarly research, including study rooms and the most advanced equipment for a continuing oral history project, for documentary reproduction, for the use of microfilm and for the full exploitation of audio-visual materials.

The Institute will seek to further one of President Kennedy's deepest concerns -- his continuing attempt to bring together the world of ideas and the world of

2.

affairs, the world of scholarship and the world of decision, as, for example, these worlds existed together in the early days of the American Republic. No purpose more consistently animated his life, and no cause could better serve his memory. The Institute will be under the direction of a man who combines scholarly eminence with practical experience in public affairs. Its object will be to enlist young Americans and young people everywhere in the understanding and practice of democratic political life and public service. It will be a living institution, responsive to the needs of the times, and its resources and programs will therefore not be rigidly committed in advance; but it can be assumed that it will strive to bring intellectual and public affairs closer together in a diversity of ways -- through lectures and seminars by professors, politicians and public servants of all parties and from foreign countries as well as from the United States; through rooms devoted to areas of special concern to President Kennedy, such as the American republics, civil rights, the arts, etc.; through professorial chairs, perhaps in joint appointment with Harvard and neighboring universities; through meeting rooms for undergraduates interested in politics and public affairs; through fellowships for students and scholars, American and foreign; through visitors-in-residence; through organization of study groups and conferences bringing together scholars and practitioners to consider vital issues; through a publication program; through literary and public service awards; and through a variety of other means. The Institute will be committed to no program or policy but only to President Kennedy's own spirit of free and rational inquiry.

Under the law of 1955 authorizing the establishment of presidential libraries, the libraries themselves are to be built by public subscription and then transferred to the United States Government. The General Services Administration (National Archives) will thereafter assume responsibility for the maintenance of the physical plant as well as for the operation of the Memorial, the Museum and the Archive. The legislation makes no provision for an Institute, however, and this project, which is the most distinctive part of the conception, will require a substantial endowment.

It is estimated that a sum of \$10 million will be required to build the Kennedy Library with the Memorial, Museum and Archive and to establish the Institute.